



NATIONAL GRANGE

Elevating rural interests since 1867

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The Time is Now for the Silent Majority to Speak Up

By Christine E. Hamp, President of the National Grange

In every city council chamber, statehouse, and congressional hearing room, decisions are being made that shape the future of our families, communities, and country. Yet far too often, those decisions are influenced by the loudest voices – not necessarily the wisest or most representative ones.

For too long, the so-called “silent majority” – hardworking, civic-minded Americans – have taken a back seat in the advocacy process. We have trusted that “common sense” would prevail, that our leaders would act in our collective best interest, and that simply voting every couple of years would be enough.

It isn't.

Democracy demands more than silence. It requires active participation. It thrives when everyday people – including farmers, teachers, small business owners, healthcare workers, construction workers and skilled laborers, students, and retirees – make their voices heard. It's time for the silent majority to stop assuming someone else will speak for them and start showing up, standing up, and speaking out.

As President of the National Grange, I see firsthand how deeply our members care about their communities. We believe in strong values, in service to others, in tradition, and in progress. But I also see that many feel disconnected from the legislative process – disillusioned, frustrated, or simply overwhelmed. The truth is that advocacy isn't just for professionals or partisans. It's for all of us.

You don't need a lobbyist's credentials to walk into your legislator's office. You only need your voice. A personal letter, a well-placed phone call, a presence at a town hall meeting or community function – these are powerful tools that too few use. And in their absence, the vacuum is filled by those with more narrow, sometimes self-serving agendas.

We must remember that silence can be interpreted as acceptance. When small, independent pharmacies close due to unjust reimbursement systems, when broadband once again skips our back roads, when healthcare becomes harder to access and education less equitable – our silence can cost us dearly. But our engagement can turn the tide.



The Grange has always stood for active citizenship. We were founded on the idea that when neighbors and communities work together, we don't just react to change – we lead it. Today, that spirit is more essential than ever.

To the silent majority: you are not invisible. Your values, your experience, and your insight are needed in every conversation about the future of this nation. Let's turn silence into action – at the local, state, and national level. Democracy doesn't just belong to the loud. It belongs to the engaged.

Let's act today.